



June 9, 2011

## Hurricane Season

Data provided from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



The 2011 Hurricane Season is Jun. 1 through Nov. 30. There are no absolutes when predicting hurricanes, but based on expected Atlantic water temperatures, upper-level wind shear, and other long-range phenomena, predictions are made and announced several times throughout the season. This year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting 12 to 18 named storms; six to 10 hurricanes, including three to six Category 3 or higher hurricanes with winds in the 111 to 130 mph range.

### Steps you can take to protect your family, property or business

#### Step 1: Build A Kit / "To-Go Bag"

Get an [Emergency Supply Kit](#) to include items such as non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries. You may want to prepare a portable kit and keep it in your car in case you are told to evacuate.

#### Step 2: Make a Plan

**Prepare Your Family:** Make a [Family Emergency Plan](#). Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency. You also should consider evacuation plans, family communications, a pet plan, utility shut-off and safety, and safety skills.

**Plan to Protect Property:** Hurricanes bring heavy rain that can cause extensive flooding. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection. Flood insurance is the only way to financially protect your property or business from flood damage. To learn more about your flood risk and how to protect yourself and your business, visit the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) website, [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call 1-800-427-2419.

**In addition to insurance, you also can** cover all of your home's windows with hurricane shutters or pre-cut plywood to protect your windows from high winds and flying debris. Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down. Keep all trees and shrubs trimmed so they are more wind resistant. Secure your home by closing shutters, and securing outdoor objects or bringing them inside. Turn off utilities as instructed. Turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed. Turn off propane tanks. Install a generator for emergencies. Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage, it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage. Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

Find out how to keep food safe during and after an emergency by visiting [www.FoodSafety.gov](http://www.FoodSafety.gov).

#### Step 3: Be Informed

Hurricane hazards come in many forms: lightning, tornadoes, flooding, storm surge, high winds, even landslides or mudslides can be triggered in mountainous regions. Look carefully at the safety actions associated with each type of hurricane hazard and prepare your family disaster plan accordingly. But remember this is only a guide. The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

- Learn about damaging and potentially deadly hurricane hazards.
- Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a hurricane.
- For more information on hurricane preparedness or disaster response, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), KSC's Emergency Operations Center website at <http://eoc.ksc.nasa.gov/>, and/or review KDP 3006 Tropical Storm and Hurricane Preparation, Response, and Recovery Procedure.

## Did YOU Know

A hurricane watch means a hurricane is possible in your area. Be prepared to evacuate. Monitor local radio and television news outlets or listen to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest developments.

A hurricane warning is when a hurricane is expected in your area. If local authorities advise you to evacuate, leave immediately.

Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure and damage potential. Category 3 and higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, though Categories 1 and 2 are still extremely dangerous and warrant your full attention.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Category	Wind speed mph (km/h)	Storm surge ft (m)
5	≥156 (≥250)	>18 (>5.5)
4	131–155 (210–249)	13–18 (4.0–5.5)
3	111–130 (178–209)	9–12 (2.7–3.7)
2	96–110 (154–177)	6–8 (1.8–2.4)
1	74–95 (119–153)	4–5 (1.2–1.5)
Additional classifications		
Tropical storm	39–73 (63–117)	0–3 (0–0.9)
Tropical depression	0–38 (0–62)	0 (0)

Click picture for more details

If you have questions, comments, or a topic you would like to see addressed:

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